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PARTIAL SAMPLE · 9 SAMPLE PAGES OF THE 22-PAGE DOCUMENT
The pages that follow are the first 9 of 22 pages of A121, reproduced exactly as published. This is not the complete document and is not for execution. The full, editable document is available at aiacontracts.com/documents/a121-owner-contractor-master-services-agreement.

AIA® Document A121™ – 2018

Standard Form of Master Agreement Between Owner and Contractor where Work is provided under multiple Work Orders

AGREEMENT made as of the _____ day of _____ in the year _____
(In words, indicate day, month, and year.)

BETWEEN the Owner:
(Name, legal status, address, and other information)

and the Contractor:
(Name, legal status, address, and other information)

This document has important legal consequences. Consultation with an attorney is encouraged with respect to its completion or modification.

This document does not contain a description of the Contractor's scope of Work or related terms. This document is intended to be used in conjunction with AIA Document A221™–2018, Work Order, for use with Master Agreement Between Owner and Contractor.

Sample

The Owner and Contractor agree as follows.

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ARTICLE 1 MASTER AGREEMENT TERM AND PARTY REPRESENTATIVES

§ 1.1 This Master Agreement shall be effective for one year after the date first written above ("Date of this Master Agreement").

§ 1.2 This Master Agreement shall apply to all Work Orders agreed to by the parties within the term of this Master Agreement until completion of the Work Order. In the event of a conflict between terms and conditions of this Master Agreement and a Work Order, the terms of the Work Order shall take precedence for the Work provided pursuant to the Work Order.

§ 1.3 This Master Agreement will renew on an annual basis, on the day and month of the Date of this Master Agreement, unless either party provides notice of their intent not to renew this Master Agreement. Notice must be provided at least 60 days prior to the renewal date. In the event either party elects not to renew this Master Agreement, the terms of this Master Agreement shall remain applicable until all Work Orders under this Master Agreement are completed or terminated.

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§ 1.4 The Owner identifies the following representative authorized to act on the Owner's behalf with respect to this Master Agreement:

§ 1.4.1 In each Work Order, the Owner will identify a representative authorized to act on the Owner's behalf with respect to the Work Order.

§ 1.5 The Contractor identifies the following representative authorized to act on the Contractor's behalf with respect to this Master Agreement:

§ 1.5.1 In each Work Order, the Contractor will identify a representative authorized to act on behalf of the Contractor with respect to the Work Order.

ARTICLE 2 WORK ORDERS

§ 2.1 The Owner is not required to issue any Work Orders under this Master Agreement.

§ 2.2 The Contractor may decline to accept any Work Order issued by the Owner.

§ 2.3 The Contractor shall execute the Work set forth in each agreed upon Work Order, consisting of AIA Document A221-2018, Work Order, or such other document as the Owner and Contractor may mutually agree upon. Each Work Order shall state the name, location, and detailed description of the Project; identify the Architect; state the Contract Time; state the Contract Sum; describe the Work; and enumerate the Contract Documents.

§ 2.4 The Owner shall make the Contract Documents available to the Contractor prior to execution of the Work Order, and thereafter, upon request. The Owner may charge the Contractor for the reasonable cost to reproduce the Contract Documents provided to the Contractor.

ARTICLE 3 PAYMENTS

§ 3.1 Contract Sum and Progress Payments

§ 3.1.1 Each Work Order shall include a Contract Sum. The Owner shall pay the Contractor the Contract Sum in current funds in accordance with each individual Contract. Where the Contract Sum is based on the Cost of the Work under Section 3.3 or 3.4 of the Work Order, the Cost of the Work is defined in Exhibit A, Determination of the Cost of the Work.

§ 3.1.2 Applications for Payment will be submitted individually for each Contract.

§ 3.1.3 Based upon Applications for Payment for individual Contracts submitted to the Architect by the Contractor, and Certificates for Payment issued by the Architect, the Owner shall make progress payments on account of the Contract Sum to the Contractor as provided below and elsewhere in the Contract Documents.

§ 3.1.4 The period covered by each Application for Payment shall be one calendar month ending on the last day of the month, or as set forth in the Work Order.

§ 3.1.5 Provided that an Application for Payment is received by the Architect not later than the _____ day of a month, the Owner shall make payment of the certified amount to the Contractor not later than the _____ day of the _____ month. If an Application for Payment is received by the Architect after the date fixed above, payment shall be made by the Owner not later than _____ (__) days after the Architect receives the Application for Payment.
(Federal, state or local laws may require payment within a certain period of time.)

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§ 3.1.6 For each progress payment made prior to Substantial Completion of the Work, the Owner may withhold retainage from the payment otherwise due as follows:
(Insert a percentage or amount to be withheld as retainage from each Application for Payment and any terms for reduction of retainage during the course of the Work. The amount of retainage may be limited by governing law.)

§ 3.1.7 Payments due and unpaid under the Contract shall bear interest from the date payment is due at the rate stated below, or in the absence thereof, at the legal rate prevailing from time to time at the place where the Project is located.
(Insert rate of interest agreed upon, if any.)

_____ % _____

§ 3.2 Final Payment

§ 3.2.1 Final payment for individual Contracts, constituting the entire unpaid balance of the Contract Sum, shall be made by the Owner to the Contractor when

.1 the Contractor has fully performed the Work except for the Contractor's responsibility to correct Work as provided in Section 16.2, and to satisfy other requirements, if any, which extend beyond final payment;

.2 the Contractor has submitted a final accounting for the Cost of the Work, where payment is on the basis of the Cost of the Work with or without a Guaranteed Maximum Price; and

.3 a final Certificate for Payment has been issued by the Architect in accordance with Section 13.7.1.

§ 3.2.2 The Owner's final payment to the Contractor shall be made no later than 30 days after the issuance of the Architect's final Certificate for Payment, or as follows:

ARTICLE 4 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

§ 4.1 Binding Dispute Resolution

For any claim subject to, but not resolved by, mediation pursuant to Section 19.5, the method of binding dispute resolution shall be as follows:
(Check the appropriate box.)

☐ Arbitration pursuant to Section 19.6 of this Master Agreement

☐ Litigation in a court of competent jurisdiction

☐ Other: *(Specify)*

If the Owner and Contractor do not select a method of binding dispute resolution, or do not subsequently agree in writing to a binding dispute resolution method other than litigation, claims will be resolved in a court of competent jurisdiction

ARTICLE 5 GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 5.1 The Work

The term "Work" means the construction and services required by the Contract Documents enumerated in a Work Order, whether completed or partially completed, and includes all other labor, materials, equipment and services provided or to be provided by the Contractor to fulfill the Contractor's obligations under the Work Order and related Contract. The Work may constitute the whole or a part of the Project identified in a particular Work Order.

§ 5.2 The Contract Documents

The Contract Documents are enumerated in each Work Order and consist of this Master Agreement; the Work Order executed by the Owner and Contractor (including, if applicable, Supplementary and other Conditions applicable to the Work Order); all Drawings, Specifications, and Addenda issued in connection with the Work Order; other documents listed in the Work Order; and Modifications issued after execution of the Work Order. A Modification is (1) a written amendment to the Contract signed by both parties, (2) a Change Order, (3) a Construction Change Directive or (4) a

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written order for a minor change in the Work issued by the Architect. The intent of the Contract Documents is to include all items necessary for the proper execution and completion of the Work by the Contractor. The Contract Documents are complementary, and what is required by one shall be as binding as if required by all; performance by the Contractor shall be required to the extent consistent with the Contract Documents and reasonably inferable from them as being necessary to produce the indicated results.

§ 5.3 The Contract

The Contract Documents for each Work Order form a separate Contract for construction of the Work ("The Contract"). The Contract represents the entire and integrated agreement between the parties hereto for construction of the Work and supersedes prior negotiations, representations or agreements, either written or oral. A Contract may be amended or modified only by a Modification. The Contract Documents shall not be construed to create a contractual relationship of any kind between any persons or entities other than the Owner and the Contractor.

§ 5.4 Instruments of Service

Instruments of Service are representations, in any medium of expression now known or later developed, of the tangible and intangible creative work performed by the Architect and the Architect's consultants under their respective professional services agreements. Instruments of Service may include, without limitation, studies, surveys, models, sketches, drawings, specifications, digital models, and other similar materials.

§ 5.5 Ownership and Use of Drawings, Specifications and Other Instruments of Service

§ 5.5.1 The Architect and the Architect's consultants shall be deemed the authors and owners of their respective Instruments of Service including the Drawings and Specifications, and will retain all common law, statutory and other reserved rights in their Instruments of Service, including copyrights. The Contractor, Subcontractors, Sub-subcontractors, and suppliers shall not own or claim a copyright in the Instruments of Service. Submittal or distribution to meet official regulatory requirements or for other purposes in connection with the Project is not to be construed as publication in derogation of the Architect's or Architect's consultants' reserved rights.

§ 5.5.2 The Contractor, Subcontractors, Sub-subcontractors and suppliers are authorized to use and reproduce the Instruments of Service provided to them, subject to the protocols established pursuant to Sections 5.6 and 5.7, solely and exclusively for execution of the Work. All copies made under this authorization shall bear the copyright notice, if any, shown on the Instruments of Service. The Contractor, Subcontractors, Sub-subcontractors, and suppliers may not use the Instruments of Service on other projects or for additions to a Project outside the scope of a Contract without the specific written consent of the Owner, Architect and the Architect's consultants.

§ 5.6 Digital Data Use and Transmission

The parties shall agree upon protocols governing the transmission and use of Instruments of Service or any other information or documentation in digital form. The parties will use AIA Document E203™–2013, Building Information Modeling and Digital Data Exhibit, to establish the protocols for the development, use, transmission, and exchange of digital data.

§ 5.7 Building Information Models Use and Reliance

Any use of, or reliance on, all or a portion of a building information model without agreement to protocols governing the use of, and reliance on, the information contained in the model and without having those protocols set forth in AIA Document E203™–2013, Building Information Modeling and Digital Data Exhibit, and the requisite AIA Document G202™–2013, Project Building Information Modeling Protocol Form, shall be at the using or relying party's sole risk and without liability to the other party and its contractors or consultants, the authors of, or contributors to, the building information model, and each of their agents and employees.

§ 5.8 Severability

The invalidity of any provision of the Contract Documents shall not invalidate the Contract or its remaining provisions. If it is determined that any provision of the Contract Documents violates any law, or is otherwise invalid or unenforceable, then that provision shall be revised to the extent necessary to make that provision legal and enforceable. In such case the Contract Documents shall be construed, to the fullest extent permitted by law, to give effect to the parties' intentions and purposes in executing the Contract.

§ 5.9 Notice

§ 5.9.1 Except as otherwise provided in Section 5.9.2, where the Contract Documents require one party to notify or give notice to the other party, such notice shall be provided in writing to the designated representative of the party to whom

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the notice is addressed and shall be deemed to have been duly served if delivered in person, by mail, by courier, or by electronic transmission in accordance with AIA Document E203™–2013, Building Information Modeling and Digital Data Exhibit, if completed, or as otherwise set forth below:
(If other than in accordance with AIA Document E203–2013, insert requirements for delivering Notice in electronic format such as name, title and email address of the recipient and whether and how the system will be required to generate a read receipt for the transmission.)

§ 5.9.2 Notice of Claims shall be provided in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly served only if delivered to the designated representative of the party to whom the notice is addressed by certified or registered mail, or by courier providing proof of delivery.

§ 5.10 Relationship of the Parties

Where the Contract is based on the Cost of the Work plus the Contractor's Fee, with or without a Guaranteed Maximum Price, the Contractor accepts the relationship of trust and confidence established by this Master Agreement and covenants with the Owner to cooperate with the Architect and exercise the Contractor's skill and judgment in furthering the interests of the Owner; to furnish efficient business administration and supervision; to furnish at all times an adequate supply of workers and materials; and to perform the Work in an expeditious and economical manner consistent with the Owner's interests. The Owner agrees to furnish and approve, in a timely manner, information required by the Contractor and to make payments to the Contractor in accordance with the requirements of the Contract Documents.

ARTICLE 6 OWNER

§ 6.1 Information and Services Required of the Owner

§ 6.1.1 Prior to commencement of the Work, at the written request by the Contractor, the Owner shall furnish to the Contractor reasonable evidence that the Owner has made financial arrangements to fulfill the Owner's obligations under the Contract. The Contractor shall have no obligation to commence the Work until the Owner provides such evidence. If commencement of the Work is delayed under this Section 6.1.1, the Contract Time shall be extended appropriately.

§ 6.1.2 The Owner shall furnish all necessary surveys and a legal description of sites referenced in a Work Order.

§ 6.1.3 The Contractor shall be entitled to rely on the accuracy of information furnished by the Owner but shall exercise proper precautions relating to the safe performance of the Work.

§ 6.1.4 Except for permits and fees that are the responsibility of the Contractor under the Contract Documents, including those required under Section 7.6.1, the Owner shall secure and pay for other necessary approvals, easements, assessments and charges required for the construction, use or occupancy of permanent structures or for permanent changes in existing facilities.

§ 6.2 Owner's Right to Stop the Work

If the Contractor fails to correct Work which is not in accordance with the requirements of the Contract Documents, or repeatedly fails to carry out the Work in accordance with the Contract Documents, the Owner may issue a written order to the Contractor to stop the Work, or any portion thereof, until the cause for such order is eliminated; however, the right of the Owner to stop the Work shall not give rise to a duty on the part of the Owner to exercise this right for the benefit of the Contractor or any other person or entity.

§ 6.3 Owner's Right to Carry Out the Work

If the Contractor defaults or neglects to carry out the Work in accordance with the Contract Documents, and fails within a ten-day period after receipt of notice from the Owner to commence and continue correction of such default or neglect with diligence and promptness, the Owner may, without prejudice to any other remedies the Owner may have, correct such default or neglect. Such action by the Owner and amounts charged to the Contractor are both subject to prior approval of the Architect and the Architect may, pursuant to Section 13.4.3, withhold or nullify a Certificate for Payment in whole or in part, to the extent reasonably necessary to reimburse the Owner for the reasonable cost of correcting such deficiencies, including the Owner's expenses and compensation for the Architect's additional services made necessary by such default, neglect, or failure. If the Contractor disagrees with the actions of the Owner or the Architect, or the amounts claimed as costs to the Owner, the Contractor may file a Claim pursuant to Article 19.

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ARTICLE 7 CONTRACTOR

§ 7.1 Review of Contract Documents and Field Conditions by Contractor

§ 7.1.1 Execution of a Work Order by the Contractor is a representation that the Contractor has visited the relevant site, become generally familiar with local conditions under which the Work is to be performed and correlated personal observations with requirements of the Contract Documents.

§ 7.1.2 Because the Contract Documents are complementary, the Contractor shall, before starting each portion of the Work, carefully study and compare the various Contract Documents relative to that portion of the Work, as well as the information furnished by the Owner pursuant to Section 6.1.2, shall take field measurements of any existing conditions related to that portion of the Work and shall observe any conditions at the site affecting it. These obligations are for the purpose of facilitating coordination and construction by the Contractor and are not for the purpose of discovering errors, omissions, or inconsistencies in the Contract Documents; however, the Contractor shall promptly report to the Architect any errors, inconsistencies, or omissions discovered by or made known to the Contractor as a request for information in such form as the Architect may require. It is recognized that the Contractor's review is made in the Contractor's capacity as a contractor and not as a licensed design professional unless otherwise specifically provided in the Contract Documents.

§ 7.1.3 The Contractor is not required to ascertain that the Contract Documents are in accordance with applicable laws, statutes, ordinances, codes, rules and regulations, or lawful orders of public authorities, but the Contractor shall promptly report to the Architect any nonconformity discovered by or made known to the Contractor as a request for information in such form as the Architect may require.

§ 7.2 Supervision and Construction Procedures

§ 7.2.1 The Contractor shall supervise and direct the Work, using the Contractor's best skill and attention. The Contractor shall be solely responsible for and have control over construction means, methods, techniques, sequences and procedures, and for coordinating all portions of the Work under a Contract, unless the Contract Documents give other specific instructions concerning these matters.

§ 7.2.2 The Contractor shall be responsible to the Owner for acts and omissions of the Contractor's employees, Subcontractors and their agents and employees, and other persons or entities performing portions of the Work.

§ 7.3 Labor and Materials

§ 7.3.1 Unless otherwise provided in the Contract Documents, the Contractor shall provide and pay for labor, materials, equipment, tools, construction equipment and machinery, water, heat, utilities, transportation, and other facilities and services necessary for proper execution and completion of the Work whether temporary or permanent and whether or not incorporated or to be incorporated in the Work.

§ 7.3.2 The Contractor shall enforce strict discipline and good order among the Contractor's employees and other persons carrying out the Work. The Contractor shall not permit employment of unfit persons or persons not skilled in tasks assigned to them.

§ 7.3.3 The Contractor may make a substitution only with the consent of the Owner, after evaluation by the Architect and in accordance with a Modification.

§ 7.4 Warranty

The Contractor warrants to the Owner and Architect that materials and equipment furnished under the Contract will be of good quality and new unless the Contract Documents require or permit otherwise. The Contractor further warrants that the Work will conform to the requirements of the Contract Documents and will be free from defects, except for those inherent in the quality of the Work the Contract Documents require or permit. Work, materials, or equipment not conforming to these requirements may be considered defective. The Contractor's warranty excludes remedy for damage or defect caused by abuse, alterations to the Work not executed by the Contractor, improper or insufficient maintenance, improper operation or normal wear and tear under normal usage. All other warranties required by the Contract Documents shall be issued in the name of the Owner, or shall be transferable to the Owner, and shall commence in accordance with Section 13.6.3.

§ 7.5 Taxes

The Contractor shall pay sales, consumer, use and other similar taxes that are legally enacted when bids are received or negotiations concluded for an individual Contract, whether or not yet effective or merely scheduled to go into effect.

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§ 7.6 Permits, Fees, Notices, and Compliance with Laws

§ 7.6.1 Unless otherwise provided in the Contract Documents, the Contractor shall secure and pay for the building permit as well as other permits, fees, licenses and inspections by government agencies necessary for proper execution and completion of the Work that are customarily secured after execution of a Contract and legally required at the time bids are received or negotiations concluded.

§ 7.6.2 The Contractor shall comply with and give notices required by applicable laws, statutes, ordinances, codes, rules and regulations, and lawful orders of public authorities applicable to performance of the Work. If the Contractor performs Work knowing it to be contrary to applicable laws, statutes, ordinances, codes, rules and regulations, or lawful orders of public authorities, the Contractor shall assume appropriate responsibility for such Work and shall bear the costs attributable to correction.

§ 7.7 Allowances

The Contractor shall include in the Contract Sum for each Work Order all allowances stated in the Contract Documents for that Work Order. The Owner shall select materials and equipment under allowances with reasonable promptness. Allowance amounts shall include the costs to the Contractor of materials and equipment delivered at the site and all required taxes, less applicable trade discounts. Contractor's costs for unloading and handling at the site, labor, installation, overhead, profit, and other expenses contemplated for stated allowance amounts shall be included in the Contract Sum but not in the allowance.

§ 7.8 Contractor's Construction Schedules

§ 7.8.1 The Contractor, promptly after executing a Work Order, shall submit for the Owner's and Architect's information a Contractor's construction schedule for the Work described in that Work Order. The schedule shall not exceed time limits current under the Contract Documents, shall be revised at appropriate intervals as required by the conditions of the Work and Project, shall be related to the entire Project to the extent required by the Contract Documents, and shall provide for expeditious and practicable execution of the Work.

§ 7.8.2 The Contractor shall perform the Work in general accordance with the most recent schedule submitted to the Owner and Architect.

§ 7.9 Submittals

§ 7.9.1 The Contractor shall review for compliance with the Contract Documents and submit to the Architect Shop Drawings, Product Data, Samples and similar submittals required by the Contract Documents in coordination with the Contractor's construction schedule and in such sequence as to allow the Architect reasonable time for review. By submitting Shop Drawings, Product Data, Samples and similar submittals, the Contractor represents to the Owner and Architect that the Contractor has (1) reviewed and approved them; (2) determined and verified materials, field measurements, and field construction criteria related thereto, or will do so; and (3) checked and coordinated the information contained within such submittals with the requirements of the Work and of the Contract Documents. The Work shall be in accordance with approved submittals.

§ 7.9.2 Shop Drawings, Product Data, Samples and similar submittals are not Contract Documents.

§ 7.9.3 The Contractor shall not be required to provide professional services that constitute the practice of architecture or engineering unless such services are specifically required by the Contract Documents or unless the Contractor needs to provide such services in order to carry out the Contractor's own responsibilities. If professional design services or certifications by a design professional are specifically required, the Owner and the Architect will specify the performance and design criteria that such services must satisfy. The Contractor shall cause such services or certifications to be provided by an appropriately licensed design professional. If no criteria are specified, the design shall comply with applicable codes and ordinances. Each Party shall be entitled to rely upon the information provided by the other Party. The Architect will review and approve or take other appropriate action on submittals for the limited purpose of checking for conformance with information provided and the design concept expressed in the Contract Documents. The Architect's review of Shop Drawings, Product Data, Samples, and similar submittals shall be for the limited purpose of checking for conformance with information given and the design concept expressed in the Contract Documents. In performing such review, the Architect will approve, or take other appropriate action upon, the Contractor's Shop Drawings, Product Data, Samples, and similar submittals.

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§ 7.10 Use of Site
The Contractor shall confine operations at the site(s) to areas permitted by applicable laws, statutes, ordinances, codes, rules and regulations, lawful orders of public authorities, and the Contract Documents and shall not unreasonably encumber the site(s) with materials or equipment.

§ 7.11 Cutting and Patching
The Contractor shall be responsible for cutting, fitting or patching required to complete the Work or to make its parts fit together properly.

§ 7.12 Cleaning Up
The Contractor shall keep the premises and surrounding area free from accumulation of waste materials or rubbish caused by operations under a Contract. At completion of the Work, the Contractor shall remove waste materials, rubbish, the Contractor's tools, construction equipment, machinery and surplus material from and about the Project.

§ 7.13 Access to Work
The Contractor shall provide the Owner and Architect access to the Work in preparation and progress wherever located.

§ 7.14 Royalties, Patents and Copyrights
The Contractor shall pay all royalties and license fees. The Contractor shall defend suits or claims for infringement of copyrights and patent rights and shall hold the Owner and Architect harmless from loss on account thereof, but shall not be responsible for defense or loss when a particular design, process, or product of a particular manufacturer or manufacturers is required by the Contract Documents or where the copyright violations are contained in Drawings, Specifications or other documents prepared by the Owner or Architect. However, if an infringement of a copyright or patent is discovered by, or made known to, the Contractor, the Contractor shall be responsible for the loss unless the information is promptly furnished to the Architect.

§ 7.15 Indemnification
§ 7.15.1 To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Contractor shall indemnify and hold harmless the Owner, Architect, Architect's consultants, and agents and employees of any of them from and against claims, damages, losses and expenses, including but not limited to attorneys' fees, arising out of or resulting from performance of the Work, provided that such claim, damage, loss, or expense is attributable to bodily injury, sickness, disease or death, or to injury to or destruction of tangible property (other than the Work itself), but only to the extent caused by the negligent acts or omissions of the Contractor, a Subcontractor, anyone directly or indirectly employed by them or anyone for whose acts they may be liable, regardless of whether or not such claim, damage, loss, or expense is caused in part by a party indemnified hereunder. Such obligation shall not be construed to negate, abridge, or reduce other rights or obligations of indemnity which would otherwise exist as to a party or person described in this Section 7.15.1.

§ 7.15.2 In claims against any person or entity indemnified under this Section 7.15 by an employee of the Contractor, a Subcontractor, anyone directly or indirectly employed by them or anyone for whose acts they may be liable, the indemnification obligation under Section 7.15.1 shall not be limited by a limitation on amount or type of damages, compensation or benefits payable by or for the Contractor or Subcontractor under workers' compensation acts, disability benefit acts or other employee benefit acts.

ARTICLE 8 ARCHITECT
§ 8.1 The Owner shall retain an Architect to perform the services enumerated in this Article 8 and as described elsewhere in this Master Agreement. If an Architect is not required by law, or otherwise not engaged on the Project, the Owner shall perform such services.

§ 8.2 The Architect listed on each Work Order will provide administration of the Contract as described in the Contract Documents and will be an Owner's representative during construction, until the date the Architect issues the final Certificate for Payment for the Contract. The Architect will have authority to act on behalf of the Owner only to the extent provided in the Contract Documents, unless otherwise modified in writing in accordance with other provisions of the Contract.

§ 8.3 Duties, responsibilities, and limitations of authority of the Architect as set forth in the Contract Documents shall not be restricted, modified, or extended without written consent of the Owner, Contractor, and Architect. Consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

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